Jingyi Xiang

✉ jingyix4@illinois.edu   •   🌐 jingyi-xiang.github.io   •   in jingyi-xiang

Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D. in Computer Science   *June 2024 – Present*
○ Advisor: **Wenzhen Yuan**
○ Research focus: Tactile Sensing and Robotic Manipulation

B.S. in Electrical Engineering & Minor in Computer Science   *August 2020 – May 2024*
○ Graduated with Highest Honor
○ Relevant courses: Introduction to Robotics, Introduction to Machine Perception, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Control Systems, Digital & Analog Signal Processing, Design Optical-Based Sensors

Publications

1. H.J. Huang, **J. Xiang**, and W. Yuan, "Kitchen Artist: Precise Control of Liquid Dispensing for Gourmet Plating", in *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2024. [**Paper**, **Website**, **Video**]

2. **J. Xiang**, H. Dinkel, H. Zhao, N. Gao, B. Coltin, T. Smith, and T. Bretl, "TrackDLO: Tracking Deformable Linear Objects Under Occlusion with Motion Coherence", *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, August 2023. [**Paper**, **Video**, **Code**]

3. **J. Xiang** and H. Dinkel, "Simultaneous Shape Tracking of Multiple Deformable Linear Objects with Global-Local Topology Preservation", in *Workshop on Representing and Manipulating Deformable Objects, IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2023. [**Paper**, **Video**, **Poster**, **Code**]

4. H. Dinkel*, **J. Xiang***, H. Zhao, B. Coltin, T. Smith, and T. Bretl, "Wire Point Cloud Instance Segmentation from RGBD Imagery with Mask R-CNN", in *Workshop on Representing and Manipulating Deformable Objects, IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, May 2022. [**Paper**, **Video**]

* Equal Contribution

Research Experience

RoboTouch Lab   *Urbana, Illinois*
Supervisor: **Wenzhen Yuan**, Assistant Professor of UIUC Computer Science
Undergraduate Research Assistant   *September 2023 – May 2024*

○ **Robotic Liquid Dispensing System for Food Art**   *September 2023 – May 2024*
  • Trained multi-layer perceptron models to estimate liquid properties from haptic signals.
  • Built a robotic system capable of drawing line arts on food items using arbitrary sauces unknown to the system.

Bretl Research Group   *Urbana, Illinois*
Supervisor: **Timothy Bretl**, Professor of UIUC Aerospace Engineering
Undergraduate Research Assistant   *January 2022 – April 2024*

○ **Tracking Deformable Linear Objects in RGB-D Imagery**   *August 2022 – April 2024*
  • Developed a new deformable linear object tracking algorithm, TrackDLO, for robust deformable linear object tracking under occlusion without external state information or physics simulation.

- Developed a non-rigid point set registration based method for tracking multiple deformable linear objects simultaneously.
- Created open-source C++ ROS (Robot Operating System) packages for the tracking methods developed.

○ **Instance Segmentation of Deformable Linear Objects** *February 2022 – May 2022*
  - Implemented and evaluated two state-of-the-art deformable linear object instance segmentation algorithms: FASTDLO and Ariadne+.

Projects

Tracking Deformable Linear Objects with Geodesic-Based Bayesian Coherent Point Drift
CS 498 Machine Perception Final Project [**Report**, **Code**] *April 2023 - May 2023*
○ Implemented a recently published non-rigid registration algorithm, Geodesic-Based Bayesian Coherent Point Drift (GBCPD), in both Python and C++.
○ Extended the GBCPD algorithm to account for correspondence priors.
○ Integrated the GBCPD algorithm into existing deformable linear object tracking algorithms to improve the tracking performance in edge cases.

Skills

Operating Systems: Windows, Ubuntu Linux
Programming Languages: Python, C++/C, LaTeX, MATLAB
Software: Robot Operating System (ROS), PyTorch, Autodesk Fusion 360, OnShape, Autodesk Inventor
Hardware: Intel RealSense Camera, ABB IRB120 Industrial Robot Arm, UR5e Industrial Robot Arm

Honors and Awards

UIUC Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
○ *Marcia Peterman Memorial Award* *March 2024*
○ *Indira Gunda Saladi Engineering Research Prize* *August 2023*
○ *Ellery B. Paine Outstanding Junior Award* *March 2023*
○ *A.R. "Buck" Knight Scholarship* *September 2022, August 2023*
○ *Oakley Scholarship in Electrical and Computer Engineering* *September 2021*

VEX Robotics Competition World Skills Standing College Division
○ *Top 5 Worldwide, Top 3 in the US* *May 2021, May 2022*

Mentoring and Outreach

Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research
Illinois Undergraduate Research Ambassador *March 2023 – May 2024*
○ Work as a peer mentor to guide underclassmen through the process of finding research opportunities.
○ Assist workshops that aim to introduce undergraduate research to new students.
○ Represent and assist the Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research in campus-wide events to promote undergraduate research on campus.

Illini VEX Robotics at UIUC
Co-Founder & Competition Team Lead *December 2020 – March 2023*
○ Mentored multiple high school teams in the community to help them get started in robot programming.

- Organized weekly events such as workshops, build meetings, social events, and general meetings.
- Collaborated with teams from other institutions to create a knowledge base for competitive robotics.
- Created guides and documentation for new member onboarding.
- Oversaw robot design, manufacturing, and programming.

John Carroll School Robotics Team

Alumni Mentor   *June 2020 – April 2022*
- Produced a series of tutorial videos on how to use Autodesk Fusion 360 to design robot mechanisms.
- Produced tutorial documents on basic robot programming and control algorithms.
- Held mentoring appointments with the current team members to provide guidance on various technical topics.

Presentations

Bretl Research Group
- 1-hour slide presentation: "Deformable Linear Object Tracking as Non-Rigid
  Point Set Registration" [**Presentation**]   *February 2023*
- 1-hour slide presentation: "Tracking Deformable Linear Objects Under Occlusion"
  [**Presentation**]   *September 2022*